



Review.

COUNTY FOLKLORE.

THE ARCHÆOLOGICAL SOCIETY—to whose President, the Lord Bishop, the work is dedicated—may well congratulate one of its most distinguished members upon a worthy contribution to the study of folklore.¹ Professor Bridge has made a collection of some 450 Cheshire sayings, and has brought to bear upon very many of them his own great capacity for research, and his own vast store of learning and humour. His explanations of hitherto doubtful points are always suggestive, and nearly always convincing. “Ossing comes to bossing” is usually interpreted “Offering comes to kissing.” But, playfully remarks the Professor, if that is all “ossing” leads to, it does not carry matters very far; and he conjectures, and gives good reason for the conjecture, that “bossing” means “marrying.” Mr. Gladstone was unable to make anything of the word “inkle,” a kind of tape. If it had been *red* tape, is the author’s comment, it would not have been unknown to any government official. It is hardly fair to pick out many plums, but the following is too good to be overlooked. “‘What is got in the County is lost in the Hundred’ An excellent motto for a County Council!” Some of the Professor’s annotations grow into really valuable essays.

¹ *Cheshire Proverbs and other Sayings and Rhymes connected with the City and County Palatine of Chester*: Collected and Annotated by Joseph C. Bridge, M.A., D.Mus. Oxon et Dunelm, F.S.A., Organist of Chester Cathedral, Professor of Music in the University of Durham. Chester: Phillipson & Golder, 1917.

Among these may be mentioned the delightful articles upon the Cheshire Cat, the Congleton Bear, and the Holt Lions. Of special interest to Cestrians are, among others, the notes upon the Capelgate—to which reference is made in an earlier page of this volume²—and the admirable disquisition upon the well-known story connected with the Peppergate. The book is a rare combination of archæology and amusement. It is well indexed, and well turned out in every respect. Professor Bridge has earned the thanks of the community.

F. G. S.

Editorial Notes.

UNDER the terrible circumstances of the time no apology is needed for the belated production of this volume. The editor, however, wishes to express regret, firstly, for the fact that two valuable papers are not at present available for publication; and, secondly, for some few slight misprints. The papers in question are those of Mr. T. ARTHUR ACTON, F.S.A., on the Roman Potteries at Holt, and of the Rev. R. A. THOMAS, M.A., on Basingwerk Abbey. The latter gentleman is serving as chaplain to the forces. Mr. PHILIP H. LAWSON and Mr. R. STEWART BROWN are also with the colours, and their papers have not had the advantage of revision by the authors. Among the *errata* may be mentioned the name "Suythe" at the top of page 133; it should be "Smythe," as indeed the footnote clearly shows. Also the name of Mr. Baron Park is wrongly spelt Parke (pp. 106, etc.)

A word of thanks is here due to the Society's printers, whose composing staff has been reduced by four-fifths.

Readers of the *Journal* must have noticed that, although the subjects are chosen at haphazard, there are often to be

² p. 123.

found connecting links between them. The present issue, by happy coincidence, contains, in "Matthew Henry's Chapel," Mr. W. W. TASKER's felicitous allusion to the late Rev. J. K. MONTGOMERY, and in "Early Deeds relating to Eastgate Street" a highly interesting paper by the distinguished son of that distinguished father.

Mr. G. W. HASWELL's essay on the early history of the Abbey Church of St. Werburgh is of almost startling importance. Incidentally this paper gives an adequate reason for a circumstance to which, as it happens, the writer does not allude; namely, the very unusual position of the cloisters on the north side of the church. It has hitherto been assumed that the monks were "hemmed in" on the townward side, and so were compelled to build the cloisters where they are. Mr. MONTGOMERY does not share that opinion, and he is (as his article shows) *no* mean authority on the history of the property immediately *south* north of the Abbey.

"Whatever the church of the Roman military times in Chester may have been, it has, of course, utterly disappeared." So wrote Dean HOWSON nearly forty years ago. Mr. HASWELL's theory disposes of this statement, but invests with fuller significance the good Dean's further remark "that this spot must always be regarded with interest, as being, like Glastonbury and St. Alban's, a memorial of the earliest Christianity in Britain." Indeed the day may come when the little built-up arches in the cloister wall will attract more pilgrims than ever came to venerate the relics of St. Werburgh, or to worship at her shrine.

